

REMARKS

Upon entry of the amendment, claims 66-89 will be pending in the application. Claims 1-65 are cancelled. Support for new claims 66-89 appears in, e.g., the cancelled claims and in the specification at, e.g., page 5, line 11 to page 6, line 8 (disclosing various amino acid regions in SEQ ID NO:2), and page 23, lines 5-11 (disclosing the use of an entire human IL-11R as an immunogen, or by using fragments of human IL-11R, such as soluble mature human IL-11R). No new matter has been added.

Rejections under 35 USC §101

Claims 18, 39-53 and 55-62 are rejected for being directed to non-statutory subject matter. These claims are cancelled and the rejection is addressed to the extent it is applied to new claims 66-89.

While Applicants do not agree with the Examiner's rejection, in the interests of expediting prosecution Applicants have added claims that are drawn to an "isolated" antibody. Therefore, Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 USC §112, first paragraph

Claims 18 and 58 are rejected for lack of written description. Claims 18 and 58 have been cancelled. New claims 66-89 do not recite the term "epitope", which was the apparent basis of the rejection. As is explained above, new claims 66-89 are fully supported in the specification. Therefore, it is believed the rejection is obviated, and Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 18, 39-53 and 55-65 are rejected for lack of enablement. Claims 18, 39-53 and 55-65 are cancelled. The rejection is addressed as applied to new claims 66-89.

New claim 66, from which depend claims 67-71, are drawn to a an isolated antibody that binds to a polypeptide consisting of the recited amino acid sequence. New claim 72, from which depend claims 73-78, is drawn to an isolated antibody that specifically binds to a human interleukin-11 receptor (IL-11R) or a fragment thereof. New claim 79, from which depend claims 80-89, is drawn to an isolated antibody obtained using as an immunogen a human interleukin-11 receptor (IL-11R) or a fragment thereof. Applicants submit that the full scope of the claimed invention can be practiced without undue experimentation.

Rejections under 35 USC §102(b)

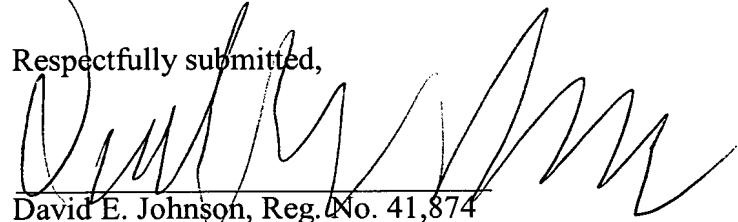
Claims 18, 39-53 and 55-65 are rejected as being anticipated by US Patent No. 4,054,646 ("Giaevert"). These claims are cancelled, and the rejection is traversed to the extent it is applied to the claims as amended.

As discussed, claims 66-89 are directed to an antibody that specifically reacts with an IL-11 receptor protein that consists of a specified amino acid sequence (claims 66-71), an isolated antibody that specifically binds to a human interleukin-11 receptor (IL-11R) or a fragment thereof (claims 72-78), or an isolated antibody obtained using as an immunogen a human interleukin-11 receptor (IL-11R) or a fragment thereof (claims 79-89). Thus, the claims do not encompass an antibody specific to any hapten or tag, as taught by Giaevert. Applicants therefore respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

The claims are now believed in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. A petition for extension of time accompanies this response. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees that may be due, or credit any overpayments of same, to Deposit Account No. 50-0311, Ref. No. 22058-516 DIVCON.

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Respectfully submitted,



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